



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HEMSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

Public Health Department,
White Hall,
Hemsworth.

Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

Herewith I present to you my Annual Report on the health of your district for the year 1943.

This report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 10/44 of the Ministry of Health, which states that owing to disorganisation caused by the war, only interim reports are required containing essential matters. This report is; therefore, drawn up on those lines.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area of the Hemsworth Urban District Council consists, as formerly, of 4,163 acres, comprising the communities of Hemsworth, Kinsley and Fitzwilliam.

The Rateable Value is £52,527 and the sum represented by a penny rate equals £200.

The chief industry in the area is Coal Mining and its allied trades, the remaining portion of the district being devoted to agriculture.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births.	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.	137	119	256
Illegitimate.	8	5	13
Still Births.	8	3	11
(of which none were illegitimate)			

Deaths.	75	63	138
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Deaths from Puerperal causes.

Puerperal sepsis. None.

Other puerperal causes None.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate.	11	5	16
Illegitimate.	2	-	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4	10	14
" " Whooping Cough " "	-	-	-
" " Measles " "	2	3	5
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	1	3

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year to receive or require comment.

The total number of deaths during the year from all causes was 138 and the causes of death were as follows :-

	M.	F.	Total.
Measles.....	2	3	5
Diphtheria.....	3	1	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	3	3	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	-	1	1
Influenza.....	-	5	5
Cancer.....	4	10	14
Cerebral Haemorrhage & Thrombosis.....	11	7	18
Diabetes.....	-	-	-
Heat Disease.....	9	4	13
Other circulatory diseases.....	2	1	3
Appendicitis.....	-	-	-
Bronchitis.....	9	6	15
Pneumonia.....	8	4	12
Other respiratory diseases.....	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum.....	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases.....	1	2	3
Nephritis.....	-	1	1
Premature Birth.....	4	1	5
Infantile diseases.....	3	-	3
Diarrhoea.....	2	1	3
Road Accidents.....	-	-	-
Other violent causes.....	5	1	6
All other causes.....	7	12	19
Suicide.....	1	-	1

Developments and changes to those services provided in the area owing to the War.

1. Laboratory facilities remain the same, but with the addition that blood which may be required for transfusion purposes in case of air raids, is forwarded to the laboratory at County Hall to be examined and grouped.
2. Ambulance facilities are adequate and consist of a public ambulance supplied by the local authority for all cases of illness or accident. An infectious diseases ambulance supplied by the Joint Hospital Committee, and the ambulance provided by the local collieries for their own accident cases.
3. Nursing in the home remains the same as previously.
4. Treatment Centres and Clinics are also unchanged.
5. Hospitals - Public and Voluntary - None in district.

Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified and dealt with during 1943 was 163 as against 92 for the previous year. They were divided as follows :-

Scarlet Fever.	102
Diphtheria.	61

and the cases were distributed throughout the area as follows :-

Scarlet Fever.

Hemsworth.	
West Ward.	46
East Ward.	21
South Ward.	18
Kinsley.	7
Fitzwilliam..	<u>10</u>
	<u>102</u>

Diphtheria.

Hemsworth.	
West Ward.	19
East Ward.	6
South Ward.	7
Kinsley.	12
Fitzwilliam.	<u>17</u>
	<u>61</u>

Of the number of cases of Diphtheria notified only 15 cases had been immunised.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

From the record submitted by the Health Visitors, it is found that the following number of children have been immunised against Diphtheria during the year :-

	<u>1942.</u>	<u>1943.</u>
Under 5 years.	184	211
5 to 15 years.	83	653

Venereal Disease.

In connection with the campaign against Venereal Disease, posters have been displayed in Public Lavatories and other suitable sites, warning persons against the risk of infection, and also giving the address of Centres where treatment is available if the disease is contracted.

Scabies.

The treatment of Scabies commenced in November, 1942. During the year the following cases of Scabies have been treated at the First Aid Post, Grove Lane, Hemsworth :-

Adult Males.	43
Adult Females.	61
Children.	<u>207</u>
	<u>311</u>

The number of treatments given was 1,024.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.

These are fully discussed in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which I endorse and recommend for your consideration.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This is dealt with in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	<u>Notif- ied.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hos- pital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	2	2	-
Scarlet Fever.....	102	102	-
Diphtheria.....	61	61	4
Pneumonia.....	55	-	12
Erysipelas.....	8	-	-
Measles (Jan. and Feb.).....	157	-	5
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	4	4	-

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	<u>Resp.</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-
1 year of age.	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	2	2
5 - 15	-	-	3	-
15 - 25	2	3	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	2	-	-	-
65 and over.	1	-	-	-

The number of cases on the Register at the 31st December, 1943, were as follows.

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
123	93	26	25

The number on the Register at the 31st December, 1942 :-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
129	93	22	24

In conclusion, I should like to thank the officials of the Council, who, in addition to many other duties which have been placed upon them owing to the War, have rendered me every assistance in the carrying out of my duties.

I am,

Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. B. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Dooley and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1943, which report is presented in accordance with Circular 10/44 issued by the Ministry of Health.

Infectious Disease.

The question of Infectious Disease is fully dealt with in the Medical Officer's report. The number of rooms disinfected after these cases were removed and also after the removal to Sanatoria or death of T.B. patients was 170.

Housing.

The housing situation remains as in 1942; no new houses having been built and none of the houses reported under the Clearance Scheme have been dealt with.

Investigations prove that there is a very serious shortage of houses in your area, and that this shortage will become more acute as time goes on. It is to be hoped that every assistance will be given to the Council by the various Government Departments concerned to overcome this problem as soon as it is possible.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The Water Supply during the year has been satisfactory both with regard to supply and quality. The Hemsworth Joint Water Committee is responsible for this matter and samples of water are taken by the staff both for chemical and bacteriological examination. The result of these samples has been entirely satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.

There is no change in the closet accommodation in your area and as was pointed out in the last year's report so far as privy middens are concerned they are mainly in connection with houses which are under consideration for condemnation and demolition, or are in such a position as to make it almost impossible to convert into W.C.s, chiefly because there is no access to an existing sewer. The situation is as follows :-

Privies.	50
Pail and Tub closets.	6
Waste water closets.	6
Water closets.	3038

Public Cleansing.

Arrangements in connection with public cleansing are as formerly; the dry ashes being removed each week from each house and conveyed to the Council's rubbish tip which is under the system of controlled tipping. The privies are emptied at frequent intervals and this matter is disposed of at your tip. The total cost of this service was £2387.

Cesspools.

The cesspools in your area are emptied at frequent intervals by the Council's cesspool emptier and the contents are deposited in the Council's sewer at the nearest available point to the Hemsworth Sewage Works.

Salvage.

Collection of salvage of various kinds has been carried out throughout the year, and in June of this year the collection of

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Kitchen Waste was commenced and for that purpose 100 galvanized bins were purchased and distributed throughout the area.

At the present time the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have not put into operation their Licensing and Private Collectors Order, 1944, and as a consequence the amount of kitchen waste collected has been disappointing. One of the facts to which I must call your attention is that of the interference with these bins which is taking place throughout the district, although efforts have been made to counteract this, these have not yet been successful.

During the year a Book Salvage Campaign was inaugurated in connection with the Book Salvage Drive throughout the West Riding and as a consequence of this 22,232 books were collected in your area. The books were distributed as follows :-

To the services.	2,506.
To other Libraries.	33
To children's Homes, Hospitals, etc.	862
For re-pulping.	18,831

In this connection and in the matter of salvage generally I wish again to express my appreciation to the W.V.S. for their ever ready co-operation in carrying out this work.

The return for the amount of salvage collected from April, 1943 to 31st March, 1944, is as follows :-

Salvage Collected during the Year Ending 31st March, 1944.

Paper.	45 tons 3 cwt. 2 qrs. 26 lbs.	282	15	11
Bags.	2 " 13 " 3 " 6 "	24	17	8
Clean				
Paper.	16 " 2 " 10 "	8	11	11
Bones.	3 " 5 " 1 "	15	10	1
Bottles.		9	1	4
Bagging.	1 " 8 " 1 " 10 "	7	12	10
Scrap				
iron &				
tins.	19 " 13 " "	29	10	9
String.	1 " 1 " 15 "		6	11
Lead.	1 " 1 " 14 "		6	4
Rubber.	1 " 2 " "	2	15	-
Kitchen				
Waste.	17 " 8 " 3 "	26	3	-
Rags.	1 " 14 " 2 " 23 "	34	2	3
		<u>2441</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>-</u>

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one common lodging house in your area at the present time and during the year this place has been visited 24 times and has always been found to be in a very satisfactory condition

Offensive Trades.

Inspections of these premises are made at frequent intervals, and at no time has there been any cause for a report to be made to the Council. Any suggestions which I have made to the occupiers for the improvement in the carrying on of the trade have been readily agreed to.

Housing.

During the year 222 houses have been inspected under the Housing Act, 1936, and of this 42 were found to need further attention. These houses are first dealt with by the service of

a Preliminary Notice and in every case the houses have been rendered in a satisfactory state without the service of a Statutory Notice.

Increasing difficulty is being met with in getting repairs carried out due largely to the shortage of skilled labour and the difficulty experienced in obtaining necessary building materials.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies.
Slaughterhouses.

The only slaughterhouse which is in use in your area is the one which is under the direction of the Ministry of Food, and from which meat is distributed to your own area and also to the Hemsworth Rural area and the Royston Urban area. The work of supervision is carried out by myself and one of the Rural District Council's Sanitary Inspectors, each one of us taking an alternative week. The following number of animals were slaughtered during the year in this slaughterhouse.

Cattle.	1641
Sheep.	6022
Calves.	11
Pigs.	145

In addition small-holders and private pig-keepers slaughter pigs for their own use and at their own private premises, and in your area these are all inspected by me.

The number of beasts etc. which were condemned during the year was as follows :-

Cattle.	12½
Pigs.	1
Calves.	1

In addition the following meat etc., has been condemned.

301 lbs Beef from various carcasses.
92 Beasts' livers.
21 " udders.
35 " heads.
3 " tripes.
2 " hearts.
1 pigs head.
2 " plucks.
13 sheeps "
1 calf's "
38 lbs Veal.
254 lbs Imported Beef.
728 lbs " Pork.
77 lbs " Liver.
250 lbs Rabbits.
374 lbs Cheese.
49½ lbs Bacon.
70 lbs Fish.
125 lbs Sausage.
220 tins Meat, Fruit, etc.
296 Eggs.
59 Fishcakes.
11 lbs Yeast.
112 lbs Potatoes.
20 lbs Prunes

All meat condemned and any other food stuffs which may be used for salvage purposes is taken away by the Salvage Department under the control of the Ministry of Food and is disposed of under their jurisdiction. The total number of visits paid to the slaughterhouse in the course of my duties was 252.

Farms and Producers of Milk.

During the year 30 visits have been paid to farms where milk is produced. In addition to this, periodical inspections of the cattle are made by veterinary surgeons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, but no report is made to me on this matter either with regard to the number of visits paid, animals inspected, or the result of the inspection, and, therefore, I cannot give any further information upon this matter. Quite frequently farmers or milk producers report to me when they find an animal ailing and this information is transmitted forthwith to the Ministry of Agriculture staff at Wakefield.

Nuisances.

The total number of inspections made for the detection and remedying of nuisances was 421, which resulted in 150 nuisances being found. All these nuisances were abated by the serving of a Preliminary Notice but again very often delay occurs owing to shortage of employees in the building trade.

Litigation.

During the early part of the year proceedings were taken at a Court of Summary Jurisdiction against a milk retailer for a contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order. The defendant was found guilty and a fine was imposed.

Herewith I append a list of inspections made during the year.

To Infectious disease.....	178
" inspection for nuisance.....	421
" work in hand.....	270
" slaughterhouses.....	252
" housing inspections.....	222
" salvage and scavenging.....	371
" common lodging houses.....	24
" meat and food inspection.....	7
" private pig killing.....	38
" tip.....	6
" offensive trades.....	22
" farms.....	30
" miscellaneous.....	341

In conclusion may I express to the Members of the Council and my fellow officials my sincere thanks for the assistance which I have received during the year in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

S. FOX,
Sanitary Inspector.

